

County jail hires superintendent

By AARON ALDRIDGE
Staff Writer

After more than five months without a leader, the Sullivan County Department of Corrections has named Ross Cunningham as the department's new superintendent.

Unity "We're very excited to have him come on board," Sullivan County Manager Ed Gil de Rubio said. "He's solid, has a great background and a proven record in corrections."

Sullivan County Commissioners are expected to ratify his appointment during their Aug. 7 meeting and Cunningham is scheduled to begin his new job Aug. 20.

"He likes what's happening in Sullivan County and how we manage the department and our vision," Gil de Rubio said.

Cunningham began his career in corrections in 1990 and quickly moved through the ranks. Between 1999 and 2002 he supervised the construction of the Berlin State Prison and currently holds the title of major with the depart-

ment of corrections and is the head of security at the Laconia jail.

On Tuesday he met with the staff at the jail to introduce himself.

"I told them all my sole purpose is to keep moving forward and not backward," Cunningham said.

Cunningham said the move was a career progression for him and he looked at several county facilities that were looking at constructing a new jail before taking the position.

"I'm very thankful to the county commissioners and Mr. Gil de Rubio for giving me this opportunity," Cunningham said. "They are really on the cutting edge."

In February Scott Hagar resigned as superintendent after holding the position for two and a half years. Gil de Rubio has been overseeing operations during the search for Hagar's replacement.

Aaron Aldridge can be reached at (800) 545-0347 ext. 139, or by e-mail at aaldridge@eagletimes.com.